

# Fourth Accident Victim Dies; Investigation of Collision Started

FRESNO, Calif., Feb. 5—(AP) The fourth crash victim died today as the district attorney opened an investigation of a blazing collision of the Southern Pacific railroad's San Joaquin daylight with a gasoline tank truck at nearby Kingsburg crossing.

Half of some 80 persons injured yesterday afternoon when the streamlined train plowed into the truck trailer loaded with 100 gallons of high test gasoline, have been released from hospitals.

Among the uninjured passengers was Amos Alonzo Stagg, dean of American football coaches. He gave his sweater to an unidentified woman who had lost her coat in the confusion.

### Tracks Cleared

Wrecking crews cleared from the main line tracks nine modern, steel-chair cars and the locomotive, all gutted or seared by flames which engulfed most of the train.

Miss Katherine Ann Hansen, 17-year-old passenger of Pasadena, Calif., was the fourth fatality. She died today at the Kingsburg hospital. The other three were killed outright. These included the engineer who apparently set the brakes as his last act before he died.

District Attorney James M. Thuesen opened what he termed a searching investigation of the tragedy, questioning several witnesses and Philip Mayer, of Fresno, the truck driver who amazingly escaped without injury. He was not held.

## Visa and Versa -- Better Come Home

FORT LEWIS, Feb. 5—(AP)—A short time ago Pvt. Donald D. Deere was in Italy and his wife, Mary Louise, in Cottage Grove, Ore., longed for him to come home. Now Pvt. Deere is home and longing for Mary Louise who is somewhere en route to Italy.

It all happened when Deere in Italy sent for his wife to join him but when her departure was delayed hopped a ship for home. Meantime Mary Louise set out for Italy.

The army and Deere with equal fervor are seeing he stays "put" at the separation center here until they can learn whether Mary Louise has reached Italy, is on the sea, or, hope above hope, has not yet left New York.

Panic inside the coaches and broken glass from windows through which many passengers escaped were held responsible for many of the injuries. Some broke the glass with their bare hands. Many of the injured were burned.

A check of the several hospitals where the injured were taken disclosed that all are expected to live.

Among seven passengers still in a serious condition is Mrs. Harold Hawkins, 3409 SE Belmont, Portland, Oregon. She is in the Selma, Calif., hospital receiving treatment for cuts and burns on both legs and hands.

A Southern Pacific official in Fresno estimated the damage to the crack 14 car passenger train "will exceed \$500,000, although there will be some salvage."

## Atomic Power Blamed For Nazi Ship Sinking

PEARL HARBOR, Feb. 5—(AP)—A high-ranking navy officer said today the Prinz Eugen was a victim of atomic power, ending speculation on the cause of the sinking of the trim former Nazi heavy cruiser.

Hammering underwater blows from the second atomic bomb explosion at last summer's Bikini tests loosened the Eugen's plates and caused the cruiser to spring leaks in compartments that naval personnel could not enter because of danger from radioactivity.

The Eugen had been taken to Kwajalein lagoon and anchored with other survivors of the Bikini atomic fleet. It sank at Kwajalein in mid-December.

## 'Polar Bears' Try Suits

LITTLE AMERICA, Feb. 4.—(Delayed) — (AP) Fifteen men, imitating polar bears, splashed and swam for 21 minutes today in the ice-choked, 30-degree water off the Bay of Whales to test new rubber swim suits.

The men were all expert swimmers of underwater demolition team No. 4 with the United States navy Antarctic task force. They wore heavy underwear, socks and gloves underneath skin-tight green suits, first designed for the invasion of Japan.

### WIRE STAFF:

June Goetze  
Bobolee Brophy

## Soldier Questioned In 'Dahlia' Slaying

FORT DIX, N. J., Feb. 5—(AP)—Corporal Joseph Dumais, 29, of Claremont, N. H., a military policeman and a veteran of the European war theater, was questioned by army investigators today about the torture-slaying last month of attractive brunette Elizabeth Short, the "Black Dahlia," in Los Angeles.

Major Cornelius T. Morris, post public relations officer who identified Dumais, said dark stains inside a pocket of his trousers had been analyzed by state police chemists and found to be blood.

Dumais, who Major Morris said, has had three wives, was taken into custody for questioning in connection with embezzlement, the public relations officer announced. During the questioning, Morris said, he talked about the "Black Dahlia" case.

Major Morris said Dumais was examined by a psychiatrist today, and that the doctor recommended that the soldier be placed in a hospital.

## Witness Says Lock Put On Plane Before Crash

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 5 (AP)—

A Danish airlines radio operator testified today he saw "a tall man wearing a blue uniform" place an elevator lock on a Royal Dutch airline transport shortly before it crashed during a takeoff here Jan. 26, killing soprano Grace Moore and 21 other persons.

"I thought it was rather strange, as it was not according to practice to lock elevator flaps," said the witness, Kesper Andersen.

Andersen was one of 23 Kastrup airport employes called before Judge Olaf Baerentzen of the Copenhagen town court during an inquiry into the crash.

Other witnesses said they saw no one place a lock, such as was found near the DC-3 plane wreckage, on the elevator flap.

## Truman Advocates Succession Change

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—(AP)

—President Harry S. Truman today asked congress for legislation which would place Republican Speaker Joe Martin first in line of succession to the presidency.

The president, in a letter to Martin, and Senator Arthur A. Vandenberg (R-Mich) president pro tem of the senate, renewed his appeal for a change in the traditional line of succession.

Secretary of State George C. Marshall currently would advance to the White House if a vacancy should occur prior to the 1948 elections.

Mr. Truman's first proposal that the speaker of the house be put in line after the vice president was made shortly after he succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt.

It was directed to a congress controlled by his own democratic party and would have made for-

mer speaker Sam Rayburn president in the event of his own incapacitation.

Mr. Truman wrote today: "I said then, and I repeat now, that in a democracy the president should not have the power to nominate his immediate successor."

## New Coastline Found In South Polar Region

LITTLE AMERICA, Feb. 5 (AP)

—Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd announced today the expedition had discovered a new south polar coastline almost equal the distance across the United States, and 125,000 square miles of hitherto unknown continental area.

### Weather

OREGON—Partly cloudy today, tonight and Thursday, with local fog in west portion. Little temperature change except slightly warmer in Medford valley this afternoon. Gentle changeable wind off coast.

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